

OBITUARY.

The Council regret that they have to record the loss by death of the following Fellows and Associates during the past year :—

- Fellows :—Thomas Michael Almond.
 Walter Ernest Besley.
 George Cox Bompas.
 Ralph Copeland.
 Edward Crofton.†
 Edward Crossley.*
 John Dansken.
 Rev. Adam Storey Farrar.
 Lord Grimthorpe.
 Rev. Timothy Harley.†
 Charles Horsley.*
 Rev. Samuel J. Johnson.
 Lieut.-Col. Henry S. G. S. Knight.†
 Thomas Edward Knightley.
 George Richard Stevens.
 Rev. William R. M. Waugh.
 Sir W. J. Lloyd Wharton.
- Associates :—Paul Henry.*
 Otto Struve.
 Pietro Tacchini.

Obituary notices are also given of E. H.^rR. Coleman and Charles Jasper Joly, who died in January 1906.

WALTER ERNEST BESLEY was born at Tiverton, North Devon, in 1877, the elder son of Walter Besley. He was educated on the classical side at Heavitree College, near Exeter, and, for one year, in London. In 1896 he obtained by examination a Second Division Civil Service clerkship, and was appointed to the office of the Local Government Board in Whitehall, where, until his death, his work lay, under its former and present Superintendents, the late Sir R. Thorne and Mr. W. H. Power, in the Public Health Department.

In 1895, when as yet only 17 years of age, he commenced to observe meteors and the brighter variable stars, communicating

* Obituary in *Annual Report*, 1905.

† Death not reported till 1905.

his results to the *English Mechanic*. In 1898, on the death of his father, Mrs. Besley came to live with her sons in London, and a house was taken adjoining the north side of Clapham Common; here the greater part of his astronomical work was accomplished. In 1900 he was appointed Director of the Meteor Section of the British Astronomical Association, having joined the Association in 1896, and having then applied himself with good effect to variable star and meteor observations; and he held this office until in April 1905 he was compelled by increasing ill-health to resign it.

Mr. Besley was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in January 1902, and was at first an occasional attendant at its meetings, but in the last two years, chiefly on account of illness, he was unable to be present. In spite of attempts to recruit his health by visits to his native Devonshire—where his time was chiefly taken up in editing meteoric observations—his condition gradually became more serious, and on the 29th of June 1905, at the early age of 27 years, this devoted and able observer passed away.

[The Council are indebted to Professor A. S. Herschel for the above particulars.]

GEORGE COX BOMPAS was born on the 18th of April 1827, being the second son of the late Serjeant Bompas. He was educated privately, and was admitted as a solicitor in 1850, continuing to practise till 1903. He married in 1860 Mary Anne Scott Buckland, daughter of the Rev. Wm. Buckland, Dean of Westminster. From an early period Mr. Bompas took an interest in astronomy; his special studies were on periodic meteor showers, and he latterly devoted his attention to the Zodiacal Light and the solar motion in space. He was elected a Fellow of the Society on the 14th of December 1894; he was also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, the Geological Society, the Palæontological Society, and other institutions. He died on the 23rd of May 1905, after a long illness, leaving a widow and four children.

EVERARD HOME ROBERTS COLEMAN was born in London in January 1818. Like his father before him, he was educated at Christ's Hospital. He was one of the forty boys in the Mathematical School, a branch of the Hospital founded by Charles II. with the view of training lads for the Navy. An interesting occurrence of his school days was a visit of the King (William IV.), the Queen, and Princess Victoria, when his Majesty's attention was attracted by a drawing by young Coleman of the island of St. Helena. The King took it from the boy's hands, and, after explaining it to the royal party, asked to be allowed to keep it. Soon afterwards Coleman received from the King an appointment in the Admiralty, and five years later was transferred to the Record and Registry Office for Shipping and Seamen, where he became